

one of the mutual funds that I owned, owned stock in a company doing business in Sudan. I was shocked to learn that. Quickly I sold it. But I think it is a warning to all that if you want to be participating in this effort to try to get the message to the Sudanese, we should all start with our personal savings and mutual funds and make sure that we are not supporting, indirectly, the Government of Sudan. I have sold that mutual fund, and I will try to be vigilant that if another mutual fund I own purchases something in Sudan, that I divest very quickly.

All of these are small actions but cumulatively they can make a difference. Tonight, as I have done before, I can't help but think about Rwanda in 1994. I mentioned it this morning when I noted the retirement of my colleague from Vermont, Senator JIM JEFFORDS. In 1994, mass murder was launched in Rwanda. It was carried out by guns and torches and by the grisly use of machetes.

Five weeks after the killings began, Illinois Senator Paul Simon, my predecessor and my closest friend in public life, who was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa, and JIM JEFFORDS, then the ranking Republican on that same subcommittee, phoned General Romeo Dallaire, head of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Rwanda in Kigali and asked what he needed. A desperate Dallaire told them that if he had 5,000 soldiers, he could stop the massacre in Rwanda. Those two Senators immediately drafted and hand-delivered a note to the White House, to the Clinton administration, requesting that the United States get the Security Council to authorize deployment of troops.

In their letter they wrote:

Obviously there are risks involved. But we cannot sit by idly while this tragedy continues to unfold.

Sadly, they received no reply to their letter. The killings continued. At the end of the day, over 800,000 people died in Rwanda as victims of the genocide. Last year, about this time, Senator BROWNBACK and I went to Kigali. People there don't talk about the Rwandan genocide of 12 years ago unless it is brought up. As I looked down at a Catholic Church down the hill from the Hotel Rwanda made famous by the movie, I thought it was just a simple church in an African capital. I came to learn that over 1,000 people were hacked to death inside that church where they sought asylum during this massacre and the genocide.

Later, after it occurred, Paul Simon would say:

If every member of the House and Senate had received just 100 letters from people back home saying we have to do something about Rwanda, when the crisis was first developing, then I think the response would have been different.

Hundreds of thousands of innocent lives would have been saved. So many times I have stood on this floor pleading for our Nation to intervene in

Darfur, and I have been thinking about Paul Simon and what he did in Rwanda. This time, during the latest chapter in the world's history of atrocities, hundreds of Americans, thousands of Americans are engaged. It is so encouraging to go to college campuses across the State of Illinois and find college groups that have made Darfur their issue. It is great to go to meetings of people old and young in my State and have someone afterward come up and discuss the genocide in Darfur. These people have not been silent. They have pleaded for action.

Paul Simon was right, in part. The response this time has been different. It has been different than the world's response to genocides against the Armenians, the Jewish people, the Cambodians, the Bosnians, and the Rwandans. It has been different in that this time we recognize that truly there is a genocide taking place on our watch, in our time in this world. But we haven't stopped it.

We are here today not as Democrats or Republicans but as advocates for the people of Darfur. The U.S. special envoy to Sudan, Mr. Natsios, has drawn a line in the sand. As of January 1, the Sudanese Government must either accept the peacekeeping mission or face the consequences. Personally, I believe this deadline comes too late. But I hope it is effective. I hope it convinces the Sudanese Government to accept the peacekeepers. If not, then the administration's plan B, the consequences of refusal, must be meaningful and immediate and decisive.

Let me close with the words of Paul Simon and JIM JEFFORDS, who retires this week from the Senate:

We cannot sit idly by while this tragedy continues to unfold.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I congratulate my colleague from Illinois for his very eloquent statement. He, along with Senator BROWNBACK and others, has been very much involved in this issue. We say "issue," but it is a lot more than an issue. It is something that is truly one of the great tragedies of our era. I salute him for his passion. I salute him for his intellect and his drive and his determination to do something about it. We have made some progress and have a special envoy appointed. This was something Senator BIDEN and I worked on, along with others, urged the administration to do. I am delighted that Andrew Natsios is in that position. He is a man of great talent. But we in Congress—and I will be leaving the Congress—and the American people, we all have to continue to speak out. We all have to continue to make this a priority. We all have to remember, as my colleague from Illinois has so eloquently pointed out, the history of atrocities such as this in the past and that when good people do not speak up and do not, more importantly, take action, these tragedies not only occur but they continue.

I salute my colleague from Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR RICK SANTORUM

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise to take a moment to congratulate my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM, who spoke very eloquently about the world threat that we face today. RICK SANTORUM is someone of great passion. He is someone who is fearless. He is someone who, frankly, does not care whether people agree with him or do not agree with him.

I will say this: This Senate is going to be a lesser body without RICK SANTORUM's great passion and his great drive, his great creativity. He will take those attributes out of this body, but I know that we will hear from him. He will be vocal. He will be concerned. He will be involved in whatever role he decides to assume after the first of January.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL MICHAEL CIFUENTES

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I come to the Floor today to honor a brave Ohioan, Marine LCpl Michael Cifuentes, from Fairfield, who was killed in the line-of-duty when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in Iraq on August 3, 2005. Michael is survived by his parents, Gregory and Carolyn, his brother Daniel, and his fiancée Tara Reynolds.

Friends, family, and fellow marines remember Michael, first and foremost, for his kind and generous spirit. A 1998 graduate of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati and then a 2002 graduate of my alma mater, Miami University, Michael chose to postpone his upcoming graduate studies in math education in order to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Michael was known as having a soft spot in his heart for children, and eventually, he wanted to become a math teacher. To make the most of his time before graduate school, Michael was a substitute teacher at Talawanda Middle School in Oxford, OH. Principal Sharon Lytle remembers that he was an excellent teacher, who was well liked by his students and who exhibited a special willingness to help those requiring special instruction. She said the following about Michael:

He was always willing to take the toughest cases. He was a real team player [and] unfailingly polite and respectful. A lot of college kids come in here just more relaxed. He was just more mature.

Mark Hinkle, Michael's uncle, said that Michael was a great teacher—a teacher who also always wanted to be a Marine. Michael taught Mark's 10-year-old daughter at Talawanda Middle School. His uncle said that Michael "just loved the kids."

Michael held a graduate assistantship through iDiscovery, an online program for teachers, until he was called for duty in the Marine Corps